



Abstract Title: How might community partners sustain the Halifax Mobile Food Market?

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Introduction

Mobile food markets (MFMs) are innovative interventions which can support healthy eating within lower-income communities. Food security exists when all people at all times have sufficient access to safe, nutritious, and acceptable foods. MFMs enhance food security through increased access to nutritious food by alleviating travel costs in areas where accessing healthy food may be challenging. One such MFM operates within Halifax, Nova Scotia. This market began in May 2016, as a 21-week pilot project in response to a healthy and sustainable food movement in Halifax. Pilot evaluation data suggested that community partnerships play a critical role in sustaining the MFM, but little is currently known about how such partnerships function in this context. The proposed project will explore how partnerships operate to influence positive outcomes of the MFM in Halifax.

Objectives

The purpose of this project is to identify how the positive outcomes of the MFM can be sustained through effective participation in partnerships. This study will also establish how power relations influence partnerships within the MFM.

Methods

Community partners will be purposefully sampled and interviewed, based on recommendations from the MFM coordinator. Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation will be used to gain an understanding of how partnerships and power are related within the MFM. This will offer insight into the relationship between citizen participation and citizen power. A feminist poststructural approach, which seeks to understand relations of power, will be applied to understand how partnerships function in support of the MFM. This approach will allow further exploration of the significance of power relations within partnerships in the MFM.

Anticipated Results

Research findings will offer insight into how partnerships in Halifax's MFM function, and will provide an understanding of how to sustain effective, long-term partnerships within

the MFM. Analysis of power relations will give perspective into how these may affect the sustainability of partnerships and ultimately the operation of the MFM.

Conclusion

The results of this research will be used to inform strategies to develop and sustain effective partnerships within the MFM in Halifax.

References

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